



NOAA
FISHERIES

Pacific Islands Region

corals

Acropora rudis

:: Biological Information

MORPHOLOGY

Colonies of *Acropora rudis* are tree-shaped with large, tapered branches reaching a maximum size of 50 centimeters. Colonies are dark tan in color with pale branch tips.



Photos copyright: J.E.N. Veron

REPRODUCTION

The reproductive characteristics of *Acropora rudis* have not been determined, but other similar species of *Acropora* are hermaphroditic (having both male and female gametes) spawners with lecithotrophic (yolk-sac) larvae.

:: Spatial Information

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

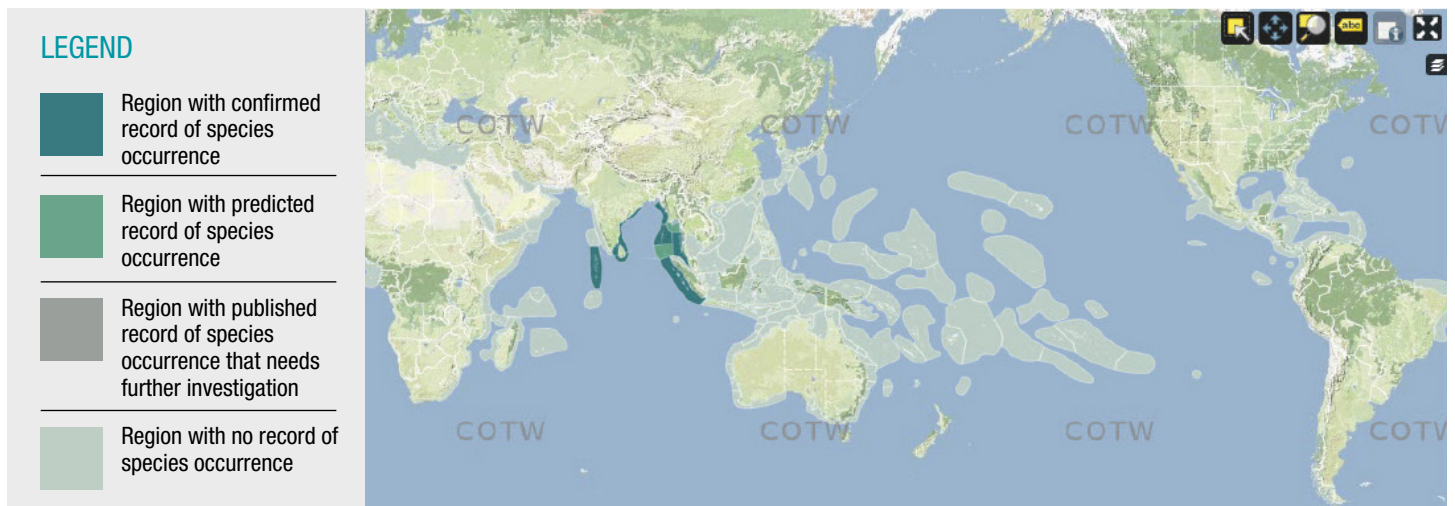
Based on confirmed observations and strong predictions of occurrence in areas that have not yet been surveyed sufficiently, *Acropora rudis* is likely distributed in the central and eastern Indian Ocean from the Maldives to the western-most portion of Indonesia.

For more information contact:

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Veron JEN, Stafford-Smith MG, Turak E and DeVantier LM (in prep.) Corals of the World www.coralsoftheworld.com

OCCURRENCE IN U.S. JURISDICTIONS

Acropora rudis has not yet been conclusively reported from any U.S. jurisdiction in the Indo-Pacific.

HABITAT TYPES AND DEPTH

Acropora rudis is found predominantly in lower reef crests and upper reef slopes, in a depth range of 3 to 15 meters.

:: Demographic Information

RELATIVE LOCALIZED ABUNDANCE

Relative localized abundance refers to how commonly a species is observed on surveys in a localized area. Veron (2014) reports that *Acropora rudis* occupied 0.1 percent of 2,984 dive sites sampled in 30 ecoregions of the Indo-Pacific. It was given an abundance rating on a scale of 1 (low) to 5 (high) at each site where it occurred, based on how common it was at that site. *Acropora rudis* had a mean abundance rating of 1.25. Based on this semi-quantitative system, the species' abundance was characterized as "rare."

ABSOLUTE OVERALL ABUNDANCE

Absolute overall abundance refers to a rough qualitative minimum estimate of the total number of colonies of a species that currently exist throughout its range. These estimates were calculated based on results from Richards *et al.* (2008) and Veron (2014). The absolute abundance of *Acropora rudis* is likely at least millions of colonies.

:: Why is this Species Threatened?

Acropora rudis is susceptible to the three major threats identified for corals including ocean warming, disease, and ocean acidification, as well as many of the other threats to corals. Its current known geographic range consists primarily of the central and eastern Indian Ocean, parts of which have projections of ocean warming and local threats that are both frequent and severe over the foreseeable future compared to other areas of the Indo-Pacific. A range constrained to a geographic area that is likely to experience severe and increasing threats indicates that a high proportion of the population of this species is likely to be exposed to those threats over the foreseeable future. This, in combination with its other biological, demographic, and spatial characteristics, contributes to a risk of extinction within the foreseeable future for *Acropora rudis*.

Literature Cited

- Richards, Z. T., M. J. H. van Oppen, C. C. Wallace, B. L. Willis, and D. J. Miller. 2008. Some Rare Indo-Pacific Coral Species Are Probable Hybrids. PLoS ONE 3(9):e3240.
- Veron, J. E. N. 2014. Results of an update of the Corals of the World Information Base for the Listing Determination of 66 Coral Species under the Endangered Species Act. Report to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, Honolulu.

